

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus comprising:

an original carriage for carrying an original;

5 a reading element for reading an original image with relative movement therebetween, said reading element having a configuration elongated in a direction crossing with a direction of the movement;

10 a supporting member for supporting said image reading unit;

moving means for driving said supporting member to impart the relative movement;

15 a first positioning portion for determining a position, in the longitudinal direction, of said reading element relative to said supporting member; and

20 a second positioning portion for determining a position of said reading element in the moving direction, said second positioning portion supporting said reading element while permitting movement thereof in the longitudinal direction relative to said supporting member.

2. An image reading apparatus according to Claim

25 1, wherein a plurality of said second positioning portions are provided, and said first positional portion is disposed between said second positioning

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portions.

3. An image reading apparatus according to Claim
1, wherein said first positional portion is provided
5 substantially at a central portion of said reading
element.

4. An image reading apparatus according to Claim
1, wherein said first positioning portion permits
10 movement of said reading element relative to said
supporting member in the moving direction.

5. An image reading apparatus according to Claim
6, wherein said first positioning portions includes a
15 boss and claw portions nipping said boss, and said
reading element and said supporting member have either
one of said boss and said claw portion.

7. An image forming apparatus according to Claim
20 1, wherein a plurality of said second positioning
portions are provided, and they are provided adjacent
opposite ends of said reading member.

8. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
25 said second positioning portion includes a boss and a
hole which is elongated in the longitudinal direction
of the reading element and which is engageable with

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said boss, and said reading element and said supporting member have either one of said boss and said elongated hole.

5 9. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said reading element includes reading means for reading the image and a light source.

10 10. An apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said reading element includes a light guide member for guiding light from said light source, and imaging means for imaging reflected light from the original on said reading means.

15 11. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said image reading apparatus is usable with an image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording material on the basis of image information read by said image reading apparatus.

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